

NW Michigan Rural Housing Partnership

Caroline Kennedy, Village of Elk Rapids

Antrim/Kalkaska Counties

Sector representation: Local government, Networks Northwest Board, Northern Homes

Tony Lentych, Traverse City Housing Commission

Grand Traverse/Leelanau Counties

Sector representation: Housing organizations, development interests, Housing Solutions Network

Steve Parsons, Little River Band of Ottawa Indians

Benzie/Manistee Counties

Sector representation: Tribal government, development interests, economic development, House Manistee

Carlin Smith, Petoskey Regional Chamber of Commerce

Charlevoix/Emmet Counties

Sector representation: Business, economic development, Northern Michigan Chamber Alliance, Little Traverse Bay Housing Partnership

Kelly Smith, Baker College

Missaukee/Wexford Counties

Sector representation: Workforce/education, economic development, Alliance for Economic Success



NW Michigan Rural Housing Partnership

Mission

To help rural Northwest Michigan *understand, commit to, and take action* on housing options.

Vision

Northwest Michigan will address public perceptions, offer assistance in navigating the development process, and manage the unique challenges of housing options in our rural region.

Strategic Priorities

Communication

Provide education on the importance of housing options, impacting public perceptions in support of diverse and sustainable solutions.

Advocacy

Serve as a collective voice of influence from rural communities to change local, state, and federal policies in support of housing options.

Technical Assistance

Assist in navigating the development and financing process and support communities with accessing tools and resources that facilitate housing options.

NW Michigan Rural Housing Partnership: Next Steps

- Official incorporation with a 10-member board
 - Representation from each county
- Hiring staff
- A new name
- Communications strategy
- Advocacy platform
- Menu of services: technical assistance
- Exploring a regional housing fund/investment